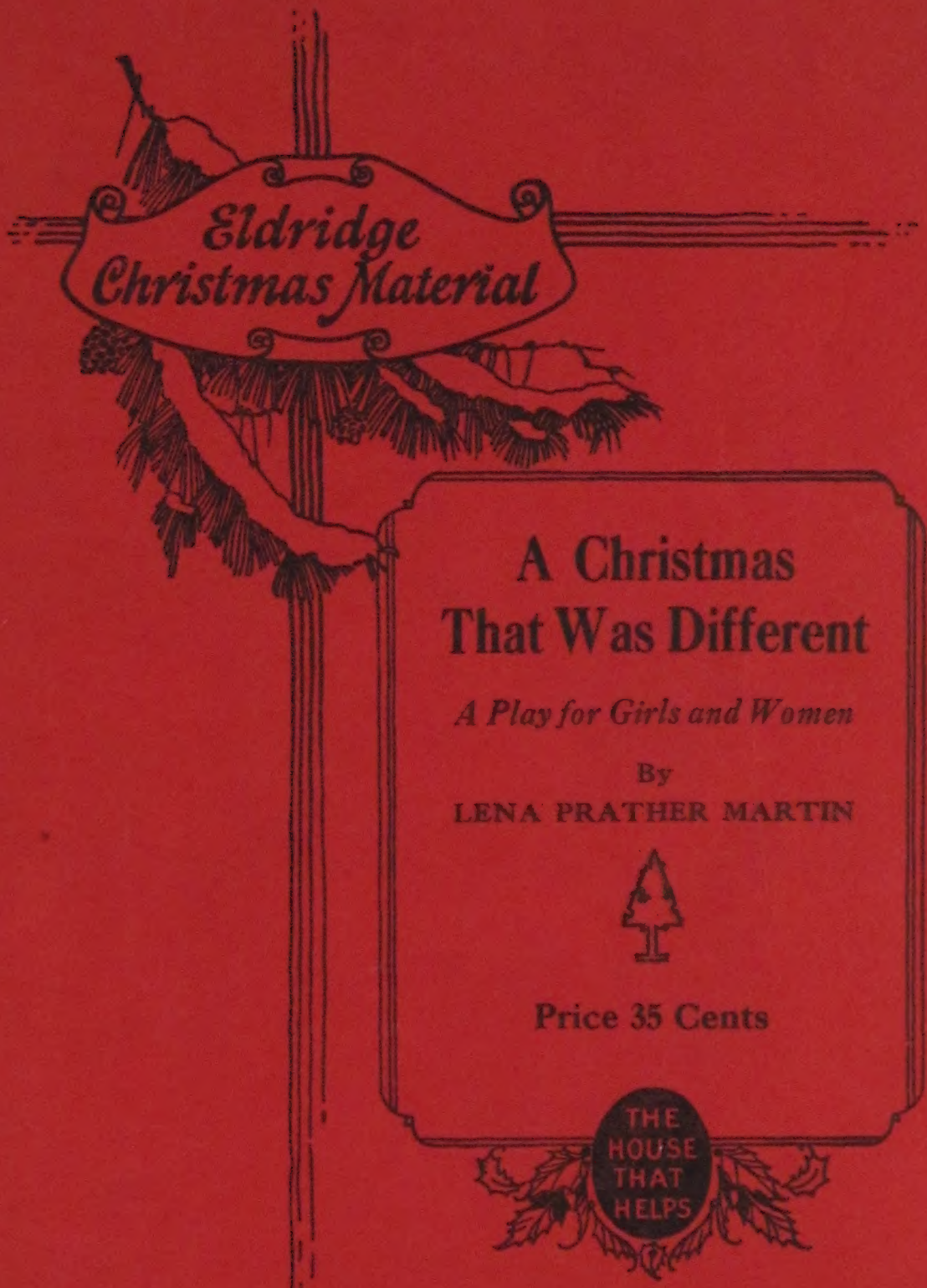


A Christmas That Was Different

A Play for Girls and Women

By

LENA PRATHER MARTIN

Price 35 Cents

THE HOUSE THAT HELPS

Eldridge Entertainment House

FRANKLIN - OHIO DENVER - COLORADO

Welcome and Closing Songs

A good beginning and clever ending is half the success of the entertainment. These songs will surely add to your program.

HELLO, EVERYBODY, GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE

IF WE WERE YOU AND YOU WERE US

IT'S VERY CLEAR YOU'RE WELCOME HERE

WE'LL TRY TO MAKE YOU COME AGAIN

WE'RE READY TO BEGIN, SO YOU BETTER LISTEN IN

WELCOME, EVERYBODY

YOU'RE WELCOME IF YOU KEEP RIGHT STILL

IT'S TIME TO TELL YOU ALL GOODBYE

NOW IT'S TIME TO GO FOR WE'VE SAID ALL WE KNOW

WITH A TEAR IN ONE EYE, WE WILL TELL YOU GOODBYE

PRICE 35c EACH

Get Our Free Catalog of Plays, Drills, Pageants, Minstrel Material, Etc.

Eldridge Entertainment House

INCORPORATED

Franklin, Ohio — Denver, Colorado

(Made in U. S. A.)

A Christmas That Was Different

By

LENA PRATHER MARTIN

A Play for Girls and Women

PRICE 35 CENTS

Copyright, 1930 by Eldridge Entertainment House, Inc.

Published by

ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE, INC.

FRANKLIN, OHIO *and* DENVER, COLO.

Printed in U. S. A.

A CHRISTMAS THAT WAS DIFFERENT

(For Fifteen Women)

CHARACTERS

MRS. LAWSON, worn out from getting ready for Christmas.

PAULINE LAWSON, sixteen years old.

ELLEN LAWSON, eleven years old.

MRS. RAY, a neighbor.

MRS. RICHARDSON, a neighbor.

MRS. GLEASON, a teacher of a Mission Sunday School class.

NORA, DORA, CARRIE, REBECCA, SALLIE, CORA, ELIZA, JULIA, the members of Mrs. Jilson's class. They range in age from eleven to fourteen.

MRS. JILSON, a poor woman.

———o———

TIME: Christmas.

PLACE: The Lawson living-room.

TIME OF PLAYING: About one hour.

———o———

SYPOPSIS OF ACTS

ACT I. A few days before Christmas.

ACT II. Chistmas Day.

ACT III. Christmas one year later.

A Christmas That Was Different

ACT I.

Scene: The living-room of the Lawson home. The room contains a library table, filled with gifts and bundles. Down stage, to the left of the table, is a sofa and a floor lamp. Several chairs are scattered about the room. Other pieces of furniture may be added, if desired. A door, right, leads into a front hall; a door, left, into the interior of the house. There is a telephone on the table.

At Rise: Mrs. Lawson is seated at the table, tying up bundles. Pauline stands near, watching her mother.

MRS. LAWSON: You caused me a world of trouble, Pauline, when you destroyed the list that I made of my last year's Christmas presents. [*Picking up a yellow scarf.*] Do you remember who gave me this hideous thing? I hate to inflict it on any one else, but I have spent so much money that I shall be compelled to use some of the things that I have.

PAULINE: I think Mrs. Richardson gave you that scarf, Mother.

MRS. LAWSON: I imagine she did, for it would be just like her to give me a yellow scarf when she knows how trying yellow is to my complexion.

PAULINE [*picking up a beautifully wrapped package*]: What are you sending Mrs. Johnson?

MRS. LAWSON: A red silk purse.

PAULINE: A red silk purse is what she sent you last Christmas.

MRS. LAWSON: Are you sure?

PAULINE: Perfectly! I remember that she brought it herself and staid until you unwrapped it, and you said it was a beautiful color.

MRS. LAWSON: That was all I could truthfully say about it, for she had made it herself; and I must say it was wonderfully and fearfully made. [*Takes package from Pauline and begins unwrapping it.*] I'll have to send it to some one else. How I wish you had not destroyed that list! I'll venture anything I'll send something back to the very person who sent it. [*Knocks at door.*] Come in.

[*Enters Mrs. Ray, a stylishly dressed woman in her early forties.*]

MRS. RAY: My! What a world of beautiful Christmas presents! I never knew any one so thoroughly imbued with the Christmas Spirit as you are, Mrs. Lawson; and you always give such beautiful presents. That was a lovely little handkerchief that you sent me last year.

MRS. LAWSON: No prettier than the one you sent me.

MRS. RAY [*seating herself*]: I know you are very busy and *I* have actually been going around with my tongue hanging out for the past two weeks; but it seems that Mrs. Gleason is expecting every member of our circle to give something to the Mission Sunday School class that she teaches. You remember our circle did promise, last August, something about helping her class at Christmas time. She thinks we should give them clothing, as that is what they most need.

MRS. LAWSON: Maybe I can find some old clothing, but I can't afford to buy anything new. My Christmas has already cost me more than I can really afford, but one is compelled to remember one's friends.

MRS. RAY: Now, don't go to any trouble for me; just send me a simple, little Christmas card.

MRS. LAWSON: Oh, my dear, you have misunderstood my meaning entirely. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to remember my friends at Christmas. It wouldn't be Christmas to me if I couldn't give my friends something, although it is a mere remembrance.

MRS. RAY: A mere remembrance! No one gives handsomer presents to their friends than you do.

PAULINE [*glancing out the window*]: Here comes Mrs. Richardson, Mother.

MRS. LAWSON [*hastily picking up yellow scarf*]: Here, take this scarf to the kitchen and press it for me. [*Door bell rings.*]

PAULINE [*throwing scarf across arm*]: Shall I answer the bell for you?

MRS. LAWSON [*emphatically*]: No. Please press that scarf at once.

[*Pauline exits L. D. Mrs. Lawson exits R. D. Mrs. Ray looks over things on table and picks up handkerchief.*]

MRS. RAY: The very handkerchief that I sent her last Christmas! No wonder she can make so many presents when she passes her gifts on.

[*Enter Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Richardson R. D. Mrs. Richardson is handsomely dressed and carries a lorgnette.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON [*going to rear of table and examining the things through her lorgnette*]: My, what wonderful presents you always give! [*Picks up hankerchief that Mrs. Ray has just laid down.*] What a beautiful handkerchief! I hope you give me this.

[*Mrs. Lawson glances at Mrs. Ray and detects a knowing smile on her face.*]

MRS. LAWSON [*excitedly*]: Give me that, please. That is the handkerchief that you gave me last Christmas, Mrs. Ray. [*Takes handkerchief from Mrs. Richardson.*] I have always thought so much of it, that I could never bear to use it. It is really much too pretty to use. It would have been a calamity if it had gotten into some one's Christmas package.

[*Pauline starts into L. D. with yellow scarf. Mrs. Lawson goes to door and stands between the scarf and the guests.*]

MRS. LAWSON: Leave that in the kitchen to dry. I do not want it here.

PAULINE: But it is thoroughly dry now.

MRS. LAWSON [*severely*]: When I say leave it in the kitchen, Pauline, I mean it.

[*Exeunt Mrs. Lawson and Pauline L. D. Mrs. Richardson is seated.*]

MRS. RAY: What did you give Mrs. Lawson last year for a Christmas present, Mrs. Richardson?

MRS. RICHARDSON: A yellow scarf. It was a beautiful thing, too, but I have never seen her wear it.

MRS. RAY [*meaningly*]: Maybe it was much too pretty to use.

[*Enter Mrs. Lawson L. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON: Mrs. Richardson, I am so glad you came. Mrs. Ray tells me that our circle is expected to do something this Christmas for Mrs. Gleason's Sunday-School class.

MRS. RICHARDSON [*rather disgustedly*]: We are expected to give them clothes. Mrs. Gleason says we promised last August.

MRS. RAY [*indignantly*]: What if we did? She had no right to spring the thing on us right now, when we are so busy.

MRS. LAWSON: Of course she hadn't. If she wanted us to do anything, she ought to have asked us several months ago. [*Knock at door.*] Come in.

[*Enter Mrs. Gleason, a plainly dressed woman of about forty-five.*]

MRS. GLEASON: I hope you will excuse me for not ringing the bell, but I can't afford to lose a minute at this time of the year. I am glad to find you three women here together. If you remember, your circle promised to do something for my mission class this Christmas. I have eight girls ranging in age from eleven to fourteen, and they are all badly in need of clothes—coats, hats, shoes, dresses, underwear. In fact, anything in the clothes line will be acceptable.

MRS. RAY: We will do the best we can, but you should have reminded us sooner. We are all so busy now we shall have very little time to hunt up anything.

MRS. GLEASON: Perhaps I should have reminded you, but I never thought of your forgetting so important a matter. I have told my girls that you were going to give them clothes for Christmas, and they will be dreadfully disappointed if they don't get them.

MRS. RICHARDSON: Oh, we'll give them something, but we all have so much on hand at present that we can't do very much.

MRS. GLEASON [*starting to leave*]: I am sure you can all find something, and both the girls and I shall be very grateful to you. [*Exits R. D.*]

MRS. RAY: It is going to take a lot of time to hunt up the things.

MRS. LAWSON: We really had no business to promise to do this, but in August, Christmas seems a long way off.

MRS. RICHARDSON [*rising*]: I'll go right now and see what I can find. I want to get the matter off my mind.

MRS. RAY [*rising*]: I'll go, too, and see what I can find. It is fortunate that we all three have daughters whose old clothes will be the right size for the girls in her class. Good-bye, Mrs. Lawson. I am sure your friends will all have a wonderful Christmas, if one may judge from the gifts and packages on your table.

MRS. RICHARDSON: Good-bye, and don't work yourself down getting ready for Christmas.

[*Exeunt Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Ray R. D.*]

[*Enter Pauline L. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON: Pauline, what in the world did you mean by bringing that yellow scarf in here for Mrs. Richardson to see, after you had just told me that she had given it to me?

PAULINE [*with blank look*]: Don't you know I forgot? I never once caught on why you wanted me to press it.

MRS. LAWSON [*crossly*]: I hope you will learn some day to use your brain occasionally. Mrs. Ray discovered her handkerchief, too, so I'll have to buy one more present, which is a calamity; for I have already bought so much your father will have a fit when the bills begin coming in.

PAULINE [*looking at table*]: I hope you don't give me any of these second-hand presents. I want something new.

MRS. LAWSON: That is the way with you children. You never stop to think how much things cost. You are always wanting more than your father and I can give you.

PAULINE: You could afford to give us children more, if you did not give so much to other people.

MRS. LAWSON: You have no right to complain about what I give other people, when you have so much more than you need.

[*Enter Ellen, a pretty little girl of ten years.*]

ELLEN [*excitedly*]: Oh, Mother! Miss Lucas says that Christmas is Christ's birthday and we should always give Him a birthday present.

PAULINE: How can you give presents to Christ?

ELLEN: Miss Lucas says when we give presents to poor and needy people, we are giving them to Christ. [*Going to table.*] Mother, may I give some of these things to some poor little girls that I know? Please, so I can give Christ a nice birthday present.

MRS. LAWSON [*seating herself at table and tying up packages*]: You can't have any of these, these are all for Mother's friends; but Mother is going to give some clothes to some poor girls. You can have a part in giving them.

[*Exit Pauline L. D.*]

ELLEN [*clapping her hands*]: I am so glad! Let's get them at once. I know Christ must feel awfully bad when everybody gets nice presents and He doesn't, especially as it is His birthday.

MRS. LAWSON: I can't hunt the things right now, dear, so run away and play, and I will call you when I have finished these packages and can go to hunt the things.

[*Enter Pauline, L. D., with a rather nice-looking coat. Exit Ellen L. D.*]

PAULINE: Here, Mother, is a good coat of mine that you may give to Mrs. Gleason's girls. It is too small for me.

MRS. LAWSON: You can sell that for a good price and get you some spending money.

PAULINE: Of course I could use the money, but I heard what Mrs. Gleason said this afternoon, and I want to give those girls something.

MRS. LAWSON [*emphatically*]: However, you are not going to give that coat away.

[*Enter Ellen with a nice-looking hat.*]

ELLEN: Mother, here is this hat that I never wear, but it is pretty and fresh looking. May I give it to some poor little girl, and that will be just the same as giving it to the Lord. Miss Lucas says the Bible says so. [*Exit Pauline L. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON: No, you cannot give it away. I can sell that hat for a dollar, and Christmas is costing me so much that I need every penny I can get. We'll have to find something else for you to give. [*Door bell rings.*] Go to the door Ellen, and if anyone asks for me, tell them that you will see if I am in. [*Exit Ellen D. R.*] Oh, dear, I am so tired! I wish there wasn't such a thing as Christmas. Sometimes, I think it would be much better to confine one's giving to the immediate family; but then I should hate not to get presents when all the rest of the women in my social circle get so many.

[*Enter Ellen with a package done up in Christmas paper with seals on it.*]

Ellen [*excitedly*]: Mother, here is a Christmas package that John Kennedy brought, let's open it and see what it is.

Mrs. Lawson [*taking package*]: Oh, my dear, we do not open packages until Christmas morning.

Ellen [*disappointedly*]: Then I hope I don't get any packages until Christmas morning, for I couldn't wait to undo them.

[*Ellen picks up her hat and goes disappointedly out of the room.*]

Mrs. Lawson [*looking speculatively at the package*]: I wonder what is in it. It might be something that I could give Mrs. Jackson instead of the handkerchief that Mrs. Ray gave me last year. If Mrs. Richardson had minded her own business and had not meddled with the things on the table, Mrs. Ray would not have known anything about my giving away the handkerchief she gave me. Now, she will be watching to see who gets it. [*Pinches off the corner of the package and peeps at the contents.*] A handsome embroidered guest towel! The very thing to give Mrs. Jackson instead of the handkerchief that I intended to give her. [*Opens package, but does not unfold towel.*] Mrs. Kennedy does beautiful work. I'll put my card in it. [*Gets card from table and writes on it.*] "Merry Christmas and much love to Mrs. Jackson from her devoted friend, Nellie Lawson." [*Puts card inside the towel and ties up the package in the same paper it came in.*] Maria Jackson has always given me nicer things than I have her, but I am sure she will not get ahead of me this time, for this towel is a beautiful thing.

[*Enter Pauline, wearing coat and hat.*]

PAULINE: I have to go down to the church to practice for the Christmas cantata, Mother.

MRS. LAWSON: I'd think you would have to practice, as few times as you all have practiced, and Christmas right on us. You go past Mrs. Jackson's don't you? Suppose you take this present to her. [*Hands package to Pauline.*] It will be one more thing out of the way. [*Pauline starts to leave.*] Do your best with the cantata. I'll be terribly embarrassed if you don't do as well as the others.

PAULINE [*taking package and starting for R. D.*]: I'll do my best, but don't expect me to do as well as those who have had more musical training than I have. [*Exit R. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON [*putting packages into a pile*]: I'll wait until Christmas Eve to send these. [*Stands undecided, with her fingers on her lips, for a few minutes.*] I suspect I had better stop for a while and go hunt up some clothes for Mrs. Gleason's class. I declare that woman can think up the most things for our circle to do. We were very foolish to tell her that we would clothe her class.

[*Enter Ellen.*]

ELLEN: May we hunt up the things to give to the poor, now, Mother?

MRS. LAWSON: Yes, I am ready to hunt them.

ELLEN [*going to table*]: May we send these things that are left over?

MRS. LAWSON: They are not left over. I am going to give away everything on that table.

ELLEN: I wish you would open the package that Mrs. Jackson sent you. I want so badly to see what is in it.

MRS. LAWSON [*grabbing hold of Ellen and turning her around*]: Mrs. Jackson! You said that John Kennedy brought it.

ELLEN: He did, but he said that Mrs. Jackson got him to bring it. I think she gave him a dime, too, for he had a new yoo-yoo in his hand.

MRS. LAWSON [*angrily*]: Why didn't you tell me that Mrs. Jackson sent it? I feel like shaking you. You run down to Mrs. Jackson's this very minute and ask her for that package that Pauline left there. Tell her that Pauline left it there by mistake.

ELLEN: But I want to help get the things ready for the poor.

MRS. LAWSON [*stamping her foot*]: Do as I tell you. Go this minute. You'll have plenty of time to hunt up things for the poor when you get back. Go on. This is very important. If you don't hurry, I'll tell Old Santa Claus to skip this house in his rounds.

ELLEN: Oh, Mother, please don't.

MRS. LAWSON: Then hurry! [*Ellen hurriedly exits R. D.*] Was there ever such luck? [*Knock at door.*] Come in. [*Enter Mrs. Richardson with a large bundle.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: Have you gotten your things together yet? I thought we could bring the things here and call Mrs. Gleason to come to get them. My things are not so good, but then beggars ought not to be choosers. [*Puts down bundle and is seated.*]

MRS. LAWSON: I'd say not. People haven't any time to hunt up things for the poor at Christmas time. If you will excuse me, I'll go get together the few things that I can spare. [*Exit L. D.*]

[*Knock at R. D.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: Come in. [*Enter Mrs. Ray with bundle.*]

MRS. RAY: I am glad you are here. [*Puts down bundle and takes seat.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: I thought we could have Mrs. Lawson telephone Mrs. Gleason to come here and get our bundles, then we wouldn't have to wag them all over town.

MRS. RAY: A fine idea.

[*Enter Ellen.*]

ELLEN [*examining bundles*]: What are in these bundles?

MRS. RAY: Just some odds and ends that Mrs. Richardson and I got together for Mrs. Gleason's class of girls.

ELLEN: Then the bundles contain birthday presents for Christ.

MRS. RICHARDSON: No. They do not. They contain presents for Mrs. Gleason's class at the mission.

ELLEN: Miss Lucas made us learn a verse in the Bible that said, "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." So if you are giving the things in these bundles to the poor in Mrs. Gleason's class, you are giving them to Christ.

[*Enter Mrs. Lawson with a rather large bundle.*]

MRS. LAWSON: I have gotten together what I could.

[*Ellen exits L. D.*]

Mrs. Ray: Would you mind telephoning Mrs. Gleason? We think that if we can give the things, she can surely come to get them.

[*Enter Ellen with a pretty little silk dress.*]

Ellen: Mother, please, let me put this dress in your package. I am sure one of the girls will be small enough to wear it, and I want to give the poor something nice.

Mrs. Lawson [*hastily putting down bundle and taking dress*]: Indeed, you can't. The idea of giving away anything as good as this. Annie Lucas [*to Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Ray*], her Sunday-School teacher, has made her believe she must give away her best things to the poor. [*To Ellen.*] Take this dress and put it right back where you found it. [*Ellen takes dress and sorrowfully exits L. D.*] Ellen is such a queer child. She makes me feel creepy sometimes.

Mrs. Ray: She was asking us before you came in, if we had presents for Christ in our bundles.

Mrs. Lawson: Annie Lucas has been telling her that Christmas is Christ's birthday, and she, of course, thinks He should have a present on His birthday.

Mrs. Richardson: Of course, Christmas was originally celebrated as Christ's birthday, but I fear very few persons think about that any more. We think now about giving and receiving presents.

Mrs. Ray: Of course, we think about giving and receiving presents. If Christmas is Christ's birthday, it should be the happiest day of all the year. And what makes one happier than receiving gifts from one's friends?

Mrs. Lawson: You say you want me to telephone Mrs. Gleason? [*Picks up telephone.*] 781, please.

Mrs. Gleason, this is Mrs. Lawson speaking. Mrs. Ray, Mrs. Richardson, and I have the things that we are going to give your class here at my house. Can you send for them?

MRS. RAY: Don't say that. Tell her she will *have* to send for them.

MRS. LAWSON: Mrs. Richardson, she asks if you can't leave the things at the mission on your way home?

MRS. RICHARDSON [*rising*]: I cannot. It was enough to take time to gather them up, when I am so busy.

MRS. LAWSON [*into telephone*]: She says she can't, Mrs. Gleason. [*Pause.*] Oh, they are not so good, but I should think they would be glad to get anything. [*Replaces telephone.*]

MRS. RAY [*rising*]: Of course, they should be glad to get anything; and it was presumptuous in Mrs. Gleason, Mrs. Richardson, to want you to take the things to the mission.

MRS. LAWSON: Do you two need to be in such a hurry?

MRS. RICHARDSON: Yes, we do. I know you need every minute of your time and we need every minute of ours. We hope you will have a Merry Christmas. [*She and Mrs. Ray start toward R. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON: Same to both of you. [*Exeunt Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Richardson R. D. Enter Ellen L. D.*] Did you get the package?

ELLEN: No, mother, the maid said Mrs. Jackson had just started for the station. She is going to New York to spend Christmas with her sister.

MRS. LAWSON: Good gracious! Did Pauline give her the package?

ELLEN: I don't know, Mother.

MRS. LAWSON [*excitedly*]: You should have gone to the church and found out from Pauline. For a ten-year-old girl, it seems to me that you know mighty little about what you should do.

ELLEN: But, Mother, you didn't tell me to.

MRS. LAWSON [*angrily*]: Didn't tell you to! You ought to have had sense enough to know I would want you to find out if Pauline had given the bundle to Mrs. Jackson. I am very anxious to know. [*Exit Ellen quickly L. D.*] My only hope is that Mrs. Jackson had gone when Pauline stopped with the package.

[*Enter Pauline L. D. She has removed her wraps.*]

PAULINE: What is the matter with Ellen? She is crying to break her heart.

MRS. LAWSON: Don't worry about Ellen crying. Did you give the package to Mrs. Jackson?

PAULINE [*animatedly*]: Don't you know she is going to spend Christmas in New York, and I was fortunate enough to catch her as she was starting to the station? She said for me to thank you and give you her love.

MRS. LAWSON [*sinking into chair*]: Nothing worse could have happened to me. Ellen needs to be punished severely, and I will surely punish her.

PAULINE: What has Ellen done?

MRS. LAWSON [*beginning to cry*]: Done! Done! She said the Kennedy boy brought the package and never told me that Mrs. Jackson had sent it. I thought that Mrs. Kennedy had sent it, and [*bursts out crying*] I have sent Mrs. Jackson's own present

back to her. Mrs. Jackson, the most prominent member of our social set. What will she think of me? What *can* I do?

PAULINE: Wasn't there a card to tell you whom it was from?

MRS. LAWSON: I was so sure that Mrs. Kennedy sent it that I failed to look for a card. [*Jumps up.*] I am going to give Ellen a good spanking.

PAULINE: Please don't, Mother. Please don't. You are just overwrought and nervous from overwork. Sit down and be quiet. [*Leads her to a chair.*] I'll think of some way to get the package back without Mrs. Jackson's finding out it was the same one she sent you.

MRS. LAWSON [*sobbing*]: It was done up in the same paper she sent it in.

PAULINE: We shall have to get it back at once. [*Pats mother on back.*] Cheer up, Mother, I'll call up and find out the address of Mrs. Jackson's sister, and we will either telephone or send a special delivery letter.

MRS. LAWSON: I am afraid the special delivery would not get there in time, and I couldn't afford to telephone. This Christmas has already cost me a lot more money than it should; then it would seem so foolish to telephone about a simple little Christmas present.

PAULINE [*enthusiastically*]: I know what we will do. We will send a letter by air mail. Blessings be on the heads of the Wright Brothers or whoever invented airplanes. I'll go write the letter at once.

[*Exit Pauline L. D. Enter Mrs. Gleason R. D.*]

MRS. GLEASON [*knocking at door as she enters*]: Here I am for the bundles. [*Begins to pick up*

bundles.] I am in too big a hurry to lose a minute. I really did not have time to come. Christmas is certainly strenuous, but then it is so much fun; and it is the greatest pleasure in the world to make other people happy. I know my girls will look lovely in these things and will be very grateful to you ladies for them. The others in your circle have responded very generously, too. [*Starting toward door.*] Good-bye, I hope you have a most pleasant Christmas. [*Exits R. D.*]

Mrs. Lawson [*disgustedly*]: Pleasant Christmas! I never felt worse in my life. Although I have given away every available thing in the house, I have spent three times as much money as I should have spent, and I still have to buy a present for Mrs. Jackson.

[*Enter Pauline with letter in her hand.*]

Pauline: I have to go past the Jackson home on my way to the post-office and I will stop at the house and get the address of Mrs. Jackson's sister, instead of telephoning. Now, cheer up, Mother, and don't be too hard on Ellen. The poor child meant all right.

Mrs. Lawson: Wait a minute. You will have to get me a present for Mrs. Jackson and mail it to her. You will have to send it by air-mail, too. Here is some money for the postage, but you will have to charge the gift. Money is as scarce as hen's teeth with me at present.

Pauline: What shall I get?

Mrs. Lawson [*irritably*]: I don't know. It will have to be something nice; that towel is a beauty.

Pauline: But, Mother, you will have to give me some idea as to what you want.

MRS. LAWSON [*wearily*]: I can't. I haven't an idea left in my head.

PAULINE: Well, I'll do the best I can and try not to spend too much money. [*Exits R. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON: I suppose I was too cross with Ellen, but it is so important that I keep on good terms with Mrs. Jackson. She can make or break one socially. [*Begins to put packages into basket.*] I'll send these things out tomorrow. Now, I must get the house in readiness and tie up the family presents. [*Picks up basket and walks wearily across the room.*] I wish there were no such thing as Christmas. *I hate it!*

CURTAIN

ACT II

TIME: *Christmas Day.*

SCENE: *Living-room of the Lawson home. In right-hand corner is a small Christmas tree. The table is loaded with presents. The remainder of the room is arranged as in Act 1.*

At Rise: Mrs. Lawson is seated beside the table examining her presents.

MRS. LAWSON: So many beautiful things, and hardly anything I really need or can even use. [*Picks up book.*] A book that I have already read. [*Picks up a box of pink writing paper.*] Pink stationery, and I never use anything but white or gray. [*Sniffs at a bottle of perfume.*] Carnation, and I use only Blue Rose. [*Knock at door.*] Come in!

[*Enter Mrs. Ray.*]

MRS. RAY: I came to thank you for the lovely stockings you sent me. [*Goes to table.*] Whoever saw such beautiful presents? You always get nicer

things than anybody, but then you always give such nice things. What [*looking over table*] did Mrs. Jackson give you?

MRS. LAWSON: She sent me a beautiful embroidered guest towel, but it is no prettier [*picking up pillow slips*] than these beautiful pillow slips that you gave me. [*Knock at door.*] Come in!

[*Enter Mrs. Richardson.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: Merry Christmas to both and many thanks to both for the lovely presents you sent me. [*Goes to table.*] Mrs. Lawson! Did anyone ever receive as many beautiful gifts as you? [*Looks over gifts.*] Mrs. Ray gave you these pretty pillow slips, I know, for she gave me some just like them. Aren't they dears? What did Mrs. Jackson give you? She gave me a beautiful hand-embroidered handkerchief.

MRS. LAWSON: I was just telling Mrs. Ray that she sent me a lovely guest towel. [*Door-bell rings.*] Excuse me while I answer the bell.

[*Exits R. D. Mrs Ray and Mrs Richardson are seated.*]

MRS. RAY: It is queer she didn't put Mrs. Jackson's present on the table. She is very proud of her friendship with Mrs. Jackson, and on previous Christmases, Mrs. Jackson's gift has occupied a conspicuous place.

[*Enter Mrs. Lawson, followed by Mrs. Jilson and the eight girls of Mrs. Gleason's Sunday-School class. These girls are pathetically dressed in clothes that are ill-fitting and badly out of style. Their shoes are black, red, green, yellow, and white. The hats are very gaudy and much out of style. The coats, with the exception of Nora's, are mostly without buttons.*]

MRS. JILSON: I am glad ter find three uv you circle women here ter-gither, fer I'm intendin' ter tuck these gals ter ever member uv yore circle, fer I want all uv ye to see how these gals look in the clothes what you have give 'em. Set down, gals, an' let the ladies get a good look at ye. [*Helps the girls find seats.*] I know thet mostly you will be proud uv your givin's, but thar may be a few things they won't be so perked up over. [*The girls are seated so as to make their feet very conspicuous.*] Red, yaller, green, black, and white. Now, ev we had some indigo, violet, and orange shoes, maybe we might have a rainbow right here on Christmas Day. Then we would think summer had come. [*The girls draw back their feet and show they are embarrassed.*] I guess [*to Mrs. Ray*] you made a lot uv presents out uv buttons this Christmas, Miss Ray?

[*Enter Ellen, who registers astonishment.*]

MRS. RAY [*haughtily*]: I can't say that I did. What makes you ask such a foolish question?

MRS. JILSON: Wall, Dora, thar [*points to Dora*] hain't got nary sign uv a button on airy thing you give her, so I thought maybe you wuz a needin' uv 'em ter make Christmas presents out uv. Now, Nora, thar [*points to Nora*] has got a rale good coat. I think Miss Gleason give hit ter her. Miss Gleason don't never take no buttons off uv the things what she gives. Stand up, Nora. [*Nora rises.*] See hit has buttons the hull way down. Thet is what I call Christian givin'. Git up, Carrie, so the ladies kin see what purtty hat you got on. [*Carrie stands. She wears a hat that has many brilliant colored feathers on it.*] I think Miss Lawson give her thet hat. Hain't hit a purtty one? I jist love colorful hats. I must say you circle women did mighty well in the hat line, fer all of them aire purtty and bright, but I can't say so much fer the

dresses. Some of them hain't so fittin'! Corie, take off yore coat and show these ladies yore dress. I hain't a denyin' hit aire purtty, but hit aire sort a chilly lookin'. [*Cora rises, takes off her coat and displays an old pink party dress of very flimsy material. Enter Pauline.*]

Mrs. Richardson: I gave that dress. I can't see anything wrong with it. My girls were only too glad to wear it to parties.

Mrs. Jilson: Thet aire the trouble. Corie hain't got no party ter wear hit to, lessen you'd give her one.

Cora [*looking proudly down at her dress*]: I'd be much obliged ef I could have a party fer this dress an' these party slippers.

Mrs. Richardson: It would be perfectly impossible for me to have a party for you, but Mrs. Gleason might have one.

Sallie: But I haven't got no party dress. [*Takes off coat and displays a much-worn woolen dress.*] Can't some of you ladies give me a party dress, too?

Mrs. Lawson: I gave you the dress you have on, and it is a good, sensible dress. You can get a lot more good out of it than you can out of a party dress.

Mrs. Richardson: But if they prefer party dresses, that is what they should have.

Eliza: I don't need party dresses. I want something suitable to wear to school.

Mrs. Jilson: Yes, them green slippers hain't no count to wear to school, and she aire a aiming ter go ter school an' git an edication so she kin teach.

JULIA [*showing her shoes, which are somewhat worn and too large for her*]: I am going to stop school as soon as I am old enough to work in the mill, so as I kin git me some stylish-looking shoes.

MRS. JILSON: Fer patience sakes, don't git 'em with spindle heels. I have most allus thought thet you could most ginerally jedge the size uv a woman's brain by the height of her heels.

REBECCA [*rising*]: Miss Jilson, don't you think the ladies have looked at us long enough?

MRS. JILSON: Maybe they have. They know now how their things become you and will know what will be best ter give you next Christmas. Now, don't you gals fergit the manners that I larned you.

JULIA [*starts toward the R. D. then turns and makes a low bow*]: Thank you, ladies, very much for my clothes. I guess they was the best you had to give. [*Exits R. D.*]

REBECCA [*making low bow as she starts out R. D.*]: And I am much obliged, too. As you see my things ain't a perfect fit, but I am glad to get 'em. [*Exits.*]

ELIZA [*starting to leave*]: I am most grateful, too, but if you ever happen to have an old dress suitable for me to wear to school, I hope you will remember me. Good-day. [*Exits R. D.*]

SALLIE: And I hope you will remember me if you have a dress that will fit me. I think I'd like a party dress instead of one with no color in it. [*Looks at the dress she wears.*]

MRS. RAY: If you want a party dress, why don't you and Eliza trade?

SALLIE [*displaying her ill-fitting dress*]: But we have to wear whatever fits us. Thank you very kindly. [*Exits R. D.*]

CARRIE [*touching her gaudy hat*]: Thank you especially for this hat. The colors are mighty pretty. [*Bows herself out R. D.*]

REBECCA [*going toward R. D.*]: I thank you very much for my things. It was very good of you to give them to me, and I shall think of you every time I wear them. [*Exits.*]

NORA: I hope I shall always be as thankful as I should. Good-bye. [*Exits R. D.*]

DORA: Clothes without buttons are a lot better than no clothes a tall, and I thank you very kindly. [*Exits R. D.*]

MRS. JILSON: You ladies know, I am sartain, thet hit aire a lot better to give then hit aire to receive; and I know thet you will be mighty proud ever time you see the gals in Miss Gleason's class a-wearing the things thet you give 'em, and thet yore pride will rize up ter the bilin' point. Good-day ter everybody, and may you all enjoy yore Christmas. [*Exits R. D.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: Did anyone ever hear of such impudence?

MRS. RAY: She brought those girls here on purpose to make us feel ashamed of the things that we gave them.

MRS. RICHARDSON: Mrs. Gleason and her class will never get another rag from me.

ELLEN: The Bible says that when you are giving to the poor, you are giving to the Lord, doesn't it, Mother?

MRS. LAWSON: Yes, it says something of that kind.

ELLEN: Then the way to give Christ presents on His birthday would be to give them to the poor, wouldn't it?

MRS. LAWSON: Oh, I suppose so.

ELLEN: Then, I wonder if Christ was pleased with the presents that you and Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Richardson gave him?

MRS. RICHARDSON: What is the child talking about?

MRS. RAY: I am sure I do not know, but I have always said it was a thankless job to try to do for the poor.

ELLEN: But Miss Lucas, my Sunday-School teacher, says it is God that really thanks you, not the people you give the things to.

MRS. RAY [*rising*]: I am sure none of those girls were truly grateful for the things we gave them.

PAULINE: They did look mighty funny in the things. I am *thankful* I don't have to wear them.

MRS. RICHARDSON: Suppose they do look funny. We are not required to see that they are *stylishly* dressed.

MRS. RAY: I say not. If we get our own families clothed, we ought to thank our stars.

MRS. LAWSON: I don't know. I am sure the Lord requires us to do something for other people, or why did He say that He would say at the last day, "Depart from Me, I never knew you?"

MRS. RICHARDSON [*rising*]: Maybe we were a little careless about what we gave, but let's not let it spoil our Christmas. I thank you again for your lovely present. [*Starts toward R. D.*]

MRS. RAY [*starting toward R. D.*]: I thank you again, too. Be sure to come over to see my presents.

MRS. RICHARDSON: And mine, too, although I haven't as many as you.

MRS. LAWSON: I am sorry that your call has been spoiled, but we won't worry about our gifts to the poor, now. Maybe we will have something better to give next year. It was lovely of both of you to remember me so nicely this Christmas.

MRS. RAY AND MRS. RICHARDSON: Good-bye. [*Exeunt R. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON [*sinking into chair*]: Such an experience!

ELLEN: I don't blame the girls for not liking their clothes. I'd hate to have to wear anything that made me look as funny as those clothes made them look. I am glad that Mrs. Jilson brought them here for us to see.

PAULINE: I felt sorry for Dora in that old coat that Mrs. Ray gave her. It hadn't a button on it. Mother, please let me give her that old coat of mine. It is right good, and Dora will look nice in it.

MRS. LAWSON: I don't care. Take it to her whenever you want to.

PAULINE: I'll take it right away, then, and it will do for a Christmas present. [*Exits L. D.*]

ELLEN: I want to give somebody something, too. I want to know that I have made someone else happy, then I can enjoy my own gifts more.

MRS. LAWSON: Get that hat, then, that you had the other day and give it to someone. [*Rising and putting arm around Ellen.*] You are a good little girl, Ellen, and I am sorry that I was cross with you.

ELLEN: That's all right. I guess getting so many presents ready for Christmas is like getting arithmetic at school, it is trying on your nerves. [*Kisses her mother.*] I just love you, Mother, for letting me have the hat. I know a little girl that hasn't a thing to wear on her head but an old dirty tam-o-shanter. Won't she be glad to get a nice hat? [*Runs happily out L. D.*]

MRS. LAWSON [*looking critically at her presents*]: These gifts represent a lot of money, and most of them are perfectly useless. I also doubt very much if I should have gotten a single gift outside of my own immediate family, if my friends had not expected gifts from me. And tired! I am so fagged out [*sinking into chair*] that I can't enjoy anything and really keep the rest of the family from getting the enjoyment out of Christmas that they should.

I do hope and pray that next Christmas I shall have enough strength of character to have another kind of Christmas and to find out if it is really "more blessed to give than to receive."

CURTAIN

ACT III

SCENE: *Same as Act II.*

TIME: *Christmas, one year later. There is a Christmas tree in the right corner, and a table, downstage, a little to the left. There are only a few things on the table.*

AT RISE: *Mrs. Lawson is finishing tying a package onto the tree.*

MRS. LAWSON: There, the last package is on, and I really believe they will like their gifts. [*Goes to table.*] Never before has this table held so few

presents at Christmas time, but then I am not tired and worn out and worried for fear my friends will not like their presents. They all knew I was not giving presents this year [*picking up cards*] and have sent me these cards to let me know they were thinking of me.

[*Enter Ellen R. D.*]

ELLEN: Mother, here is a package the Kennedy boy brought, and I'll tell you right now, before I forget, Mrs. Jackson sent it.

MRS. LAWSON [*eagerly taking package*]: Mrs. Jackson! I told her positively not to send me a thing, that I was not giving presents. [*Opens package and displays a bottle of perfume.*] Blue Rose, just the kind of I use. [*Drops card.*]

ELLEN [*picking up card*]: Here is a card, Mother.

[*Mrs. Lawson takes card and reads it.*]

MRS. LAWSON [*reading*]: "Dear Mrs. Lawson, I know you are not giving presents, but I want to give you something, anyhow. So don't call this a Christmas present, but a gift of love from a friend." Now, I call that sweet in her, and I am glad that someone thinks enough of me to send me a present without expecting something in return. [*Knock at door.*] Come in!

[*Enter Mrs. Ray.*]

MRS. RAY: I came to see how you are enjoying Christmas without presents. I got the loveliest gifts that you ever saw. You must come to see them.

MRS. LAWSON: I shall be glad to come, but do you know I don't mind doing without presents one-half as badly as I thought I should; and I feel so rested this Christmas.

ELLEN: And we children got more nice things this year than we have ever gotten. And we gave a lot of nice things to the poor, didn't we, Mother?

MRS. LAWSON: Yes, I tried to use the money that I usually spend for presents for my friends and acquaintances to buy things for the poor. Really, I never got such a thrill and so much enjoyment out of anything in my life. Then I feel so fresh and able to enjoy the holidays with my family.

MRS. RAY: That is more than I do. [*Slips wearily into chair.*] I never was so worn out in my life. I've had such a worrisome Christmas this year that I am just all in. [*Knock at door.*] Come in.

[*Enter Mrs. Richardson.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: Merry Christmas to everybody. [*Sinks into chair.*] I am completely tired out. Christmas is surely a strenuous time, but I wouldn't miss my presents for anything in the world. [*Looks at table.*] I never expected to see your table this bare at Christmas, Mrs. Lawson. How are you standing it?

MRS. LAWSON: Just fine, and I love everyone of my friends just as much as if I had spent weeks and weeks making and getting together gifts for them.

MRS. RICHARDSON: And have lots of money left?

MRS. LAWSON: No, I haven't any money left. I did not go in debt, as I have done for the past several years, but I spent all the money I could spare from my family to buy gifts for people who could not afford to buy things for themselves. Really, I feel better able to enter into the Christmas festivities than ever before in my life. I am so glad you two are here, for Mrs. Gleason is going to bring her Sunday-School class to let me see how the girls look in the clothes that our circle gave them.

Mrs. Ray: I sent a perfectly good coat and hat this year, and I shall not be ashamed to see them.

Mrs. Richardson: And I sent two perfectly good pairs of shoes that I could have worn quite a while longer myself.

[*Enter Pauline, followed by Mrs. Gleason and her eight Sunday-School girls.*]

Pauline: Mother, here are Mrs. Gleason and her class.

Mrs. Lawson: Glad to see you, Mrs. Gleason, and so glad to have the girls. [*The girls are neatly and becomingly dressed in nice-looking hats, coats, and shoes.*] Find chairs, girls. There are a few presents on the tree for you, and Ellen is very anxious to distribute them.

[*Ellen goes eagerly to the tree. The girls and Mrs. Gleason are seated. Ellen calls the names—Sallie, Cora, Eliza, Julia, Rebecca, Carrie, Nora, and Dora. Each girl responds with a "thank you" when she receives her gift. Each girl unwraps her package and discloses a pretty colored scarf, each scarf being a different color.*]

Mrs. Gleason: The circle, to which you three ladies belong, has made me and my girls very happy this Christmas. You see them appropriately clothed; and Mrs. Lawson has added the finishing touch by giving them these lovely scarfs. The girls and I are all very grateful to all of you for your kindness.

Mrs. Ray: You had best tender most of your thanks to Mrs. Lawson, for she was the one who insisted on our making useful and attractive presents this year.

Mrs. Lawson: Ellen and old Mrs. Jilson brought me to my senses, so the credit really belongs to them.

[*Enter Mrs. Jilson, who has on a neat black suit.*]

MRS. JILSON: I wuz aimin' ter bring these gals ter see you, myself, but Miss Gleason beat me ter hit. You can't find a nicer looking bunch uv gals no whar than them gals be. Then jist look at me. I feel like a million dollars in this nice outfit; and I am so glad hit is black, fer I kin wear hit to funerals. I like ter go to funerals fer I allus git such a good chance ter express my feelin's in tears.

MRS. LAWSON: Won't you be seated?

MRS. JILSON: I don't keer ef I do. Everybody is dressed so fine thet this looks like a party.

MRS. GLEASON: The girls have learned some Christmas carols that they will be glad to sing for you, if you care to hear them.

PAULINE: Of course, we shall be glad to hear them. I'll play their accompaniment if they will sing. Come, let's begin.

[*Pauline plays their accompaniments, and the girls stand down stage in row and sing Christmas carols. The others applaud at the end of each song. The girls wear their scarfs around their shoulders. When the girls are through singing, Mrs. Gleason rises.*]

MRS. GLEASON: We had best be going, girls. Thank Mrs. Lawson and the other ladies for your gifts.

ALL THE GIRLS: Thank you, ladies, very much.

MRS. GLEASON: I thank you, too, for I have enjoyed it as much as the girls and am as happy as they over their gifts.

[*Mrs. Gleason and the girls exeunt R .D.*]

MRS. JILSON: I have allus heard hit was more blessed ter give than ter receive, but I bet none uv you ladies feels as good as me an' the gals do with our fine clothes. [*Rising.*] I must be biddin' you all good-bye, too.

[*Mrs. Lawson takes a package from the table and hands it to Mrs. Jilson, who unties it.*]

MRS. JILSON [*displaying silk stockings*]: Stockings! and them silk, too. I certainly am obleeged ter you, fer I hain't never had no rayon hose, let alone silk ones. May the Lord prosper you and make you able to make a lot more people happy. This shore has bin a fine Christmas. Good-day ter all. [*Exits R. D.*]

MRS. RICHARDSON: Don't you know? I feel a lot better because those girls look so nice in their clothes. I am glad that Mrs. Gleason brought them to see us.

MRS. RAY: I am more glad that Mrs. Jilson brought them last year so that we could see how they looked in the old shabby things that we gave them last Christmas.

ELLEN: I am sure that Christ was pleased with His birthday presents this year.

MRS. LAWSON: I feel that He knows we tried.

MRS. RAY [*rising*]: I must be going. And next year I am going to follow your example, Mrs. Lawson, and instead of giving so many presents to people who do not need them, I am going to give things to people who are not able to buy things for themselves.

MRS. RICHARDSON [*rising*]: And so am I. Ellen, I think you started this ball to rolling, and I am sure you will have one very bright star in your crown.

ELLEN: Me! What have I done, Mother?

MRS. LAWSON [*putting arm around Ellen*]: You have been a kind little girl that wanted to help others.

ELLEN: It does make me happy to help others.

MRS. RAY: It makes us older people happy, too. Good-bye, Mrs. Lawson. Mrs. Richardson and I are going home to plan for next Christmas, aren't we, Mrs. Richardson?

MRS. RICHARDSON: Indeed, we are.

[*Exeunt R. D. Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Richardson.*]

PAULINE: I think I'll go see what some of my friends got for Christmas. [*Starts toward L. D.*] Mother, you don't know how glad I am that you are not all tired out this Christmas. [*Exits.*]

ELLEN: May I go see Miss Lucas, Mother? You know we are planning a party this week, especially for some poor girls in our class.

MRS. LAWSON: Yes, go, my dear, and give Miss Lucas my love. She is a dear, good woman. [*Exits Ellen R. D.*] My table [*looking at table*] holds fewer presents than ever before, but this is the happiest Christmas that I have had in many a day, for I have made many people truly happy. Surely it is "better to give than to receive."

CURTAIN

SPLENDID CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS

The happiest time of the year and of course you want the Best Entertainments available. This list will help you in procuring them.

Plays for Children

CHRISTMAS AT FINNEGAN'S FLAT. A funny play about 1 hr. long..... **25c**

HOW THE CHRISTMAS SONG WAS FOUND. Beautiful sketch, 12 or more children. 20 to 30 min..... **25c**

CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE. A short play for little people. 15 min..... **25c**

Plays for Young People and Adults

CHRISTMAS AT GOOSEBERRY GLEN. A worthy successor to "Christmas At Finnegan's Flat." 7 m., 6f., 5 children. 1 hr. or more..... **25c**

THE KINGDOM OF LOVE. A new idea for Christmas play. 20 or more characters. 45 min..... **25c**

CHRISTMAS ON A DAY COACH. Action takes place on a train. Funny and pathetic incidents; 7 m., 3 f. and 8 minor characters..... **25c**

Pageants

CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE. A pretty pageant depicting Christmas customs of different nations..... **25c**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. Very pretty groupings..... **25c**

Dialog and Recitation Books, Etc.

THE HELP-U CHRISTMAS COLLECTION..... **40c**

THE JOLLY HOLLY BOOK..... **40c**

LITTLE PEOPLE'S CHRISTMAS BOOK..... **40c**

TEN GOOD CHRISTMAS PANTOMIMES..... **40c**

Get our free Catalog of Plays, Pageants, Songs, Stunts, Etc.

Eldridge Entertainment House

INCORPORATED

Franklin, Ohio — Denver, Colorado

CHRISTMAS OPERETTAS

Here are some Especially Good Ones

EASY TO GIVE—CATCHY MUSIC—CLEVER DIALOG

Insures a Bright and Snappy Christmas Program

FIRST WE NAME THIS NEW ONE

The Toys That Had to Wait

BY CATHERINE CHRISTIE

One of the most tuneful operettas we have to offer. Mrs. Santa feels sorry for the toys Santa left behind, and calls Titania to bring them to life so they may have a jolly Christmas Eve, and what a good time they all have. Very few principals required but many good choruses. An easy and effective number. Plays about 45 minutes or longer with specialties. Price 50c.

Mr. Moon and Merry Christmas

BY CAROLYN FREEMAN

A pretty pageant-operetta for children of mixed ages. A Christmas Eve story introducing Mr. Moon. Shadows, Clouds, Stars. Christmas Spirits, and others. Music easy and tuneful. Plays about 1 hour. 50c.

Santa at Sea

BY YALE AND ELDRIDGE

The plot is simple but novel, and the music in 1 and 2 parts. Requires a number of characters, but with a few exceptions, parts are easily learned. Very few stage properties required. Full directions. Plays about 50 minuets. 40c.

Santa in Southland

BY ELDRIDGE

A bright and easy operetta which is full of fun and humor, and fits well in school or church. There is little costuming, and you will enjoy old Uncle Eph and the children, and best of all old Santa who, because of hot weather, is forced to come by balloon. Music in one and two parts. Opportunity is given to introduce outside numbers if desired. 40c.

At the End of the Santa Claus Trail

BY HARRIETTE WILBUR

Delightful children's operetta telling the story of a long but successful search for good old Kriss. Requires 14 girls and 12 boys. A lot of old friends are introduced, together with some new ones. Music mostly arranged from old folk-songs. A delightful entertainment. Time, about 1¼ hours. 50c.

The Busy Christmas Fairies

BY MAUDE S. SMITH

This is a short musical play for kindergarten or first grades. Introduces the Wicked Night Wind Fairy, Christmas Fairies, Earth Children, Santa Claus, etc. Clever lines and tuneful, but very easy music. Plays about 15 minutes. 35c.

Hallowe'en Hilarity Hints

"Good Things to Keep the Ball Rolling"

A Bunch of Stunts for Hallowe'en. A new book of doings, contributed by many wide-awake writers. Covers almost any kind of festival, party or entertainment you wish to give. Drills, games, stunts, decorations, etc. 75c

The Fairy and the Witch. A 1-act allegorical sketch for Hallowe'en, by A. D. Nelson. 1 adult, male or female, and any number of children. In this very picturesque little play, the Black Witch of Hallowe'en falls under the spell of the White Fairy and superstition gives way to reason. Time, about 20 minutes. 25c

The Frolic of the Witches. By Juanita Mae Culp. This is a clever little drill especially adapted for Hallowe'en. Introduces flashlights and brooms, and is for 11 girls. 25c

Guess Who Song and Drill. Something novel. 25c

The Haunted Gate. By Edith Wormwood. A clever play for Hallowe'en. The capture of the ghosts furnishes a good climax to the play. 3 males, 7 females. Plays from 30 to 45 minutes. 35c

Jimmy's Ghosts. By Cecil J. Richmond. A sketch for children. Five speaking parts with chorus of witches. Can easily be given in any school room. 15c

Scarecrows A-Roaming. An eccentric drill. 25c

What To Do On Hallowe'en. Compiled by Juanita Mae Culp. This is a really good collection of helpful suggestions for this occasion. Suggestions for decorations, menus, parties, games, stunts, recipes, a play or two, and other good things. Purchasers will find themselves relieved from worry and trouble concerning Hallowe'en. 40c

Fun With Fortune Telling. Compiled by Mrs. G. L. Henson. Here is a book that will furnish fun and interest for any social gathering. Everyone is interested in their "fortune" and this book is arranged to give you pleasure, either individually or as a crowd. 50c

---

Eldridge Entertainment House

INCORPORATED

Franklin, Ohio — Denver, Colorado

Novel Action Songs for Young Ladies

Here is a list of songs along the "stunt" order, suitable for entertainment programs, club programs, and social affairs. Plenty of fun and action.

The Hat of Other Days. Words and music by Harry C. Eldridge. Everyone knows how ridiculous the changing styles make out-of-date hats appear. The song is based on this fact, and the appearance of these "hats of other days" will cause loads of merriment.....50c

Mixed Recipes. A Domestic Science tragedy (?) set to music by H. C. Eldridge. The young ladies of the class lose their notes and have to get material ready for inspection without them. Trouble ensues. Good novelty....50c

I Can't Do a Thing With My Hair Since It's Washed. Words and music by Harry C. Eldridge. Did you ever hear the above expression? They all say it. The song is for a merry group of girls who have trouble in keeping their hair in bounds. A jolly song.....50c

Reduced to $1.99. Words and music by H. C. Eldridge. The figures in a dry goods window are indignant at having to participate in so many "reduction sales," and, revolting, walk off the stage after telling their troubles in song. The eccentric motion of the figures makes a laughable number.....50c

The Winning Ways of Grandma's Days. Words and music by H. C. Eldridge. Sung in costume, this portrays the many wholesome and pleasing customs of "ye olden times." Directions for minuet included.....50c

My Arrow Collar Man. Words by Juliet Barker, music by H. C. Eldridge. A novelty song for young lady with optional chorus of girls.....50c

Nobody Knows What the Next Style Will Be. By Sarah Eldridge. The ever-changing mode of hair dressing keeps us all guessing what the next style will be. Sung by four or more girls, each with different style of hair dress and appropriate costumes.....50c

When Polly Put the Pepper in the Tea. By H. C. Eldridge. Amusing musical novelty telling of absent-minded Polly who served pepper instead of sugar in the tea. For 2 or more ladies.....50c

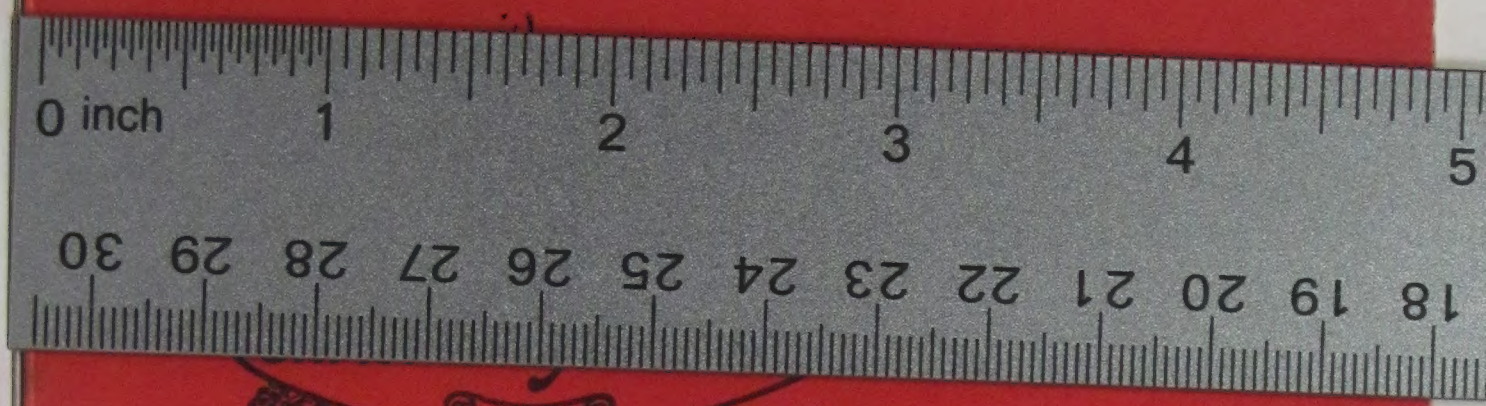
---

Eldridge Entertainment House

INCORPORATED

Franklin, Ohio — Denver, Colorado

datacolor



A Christmas That Was Different

A Play for Girls and Women

By

LENA PRATHER MARTIN

Price 35 Cents

THE HOUSE THAT HELPS

Eldridge Entertainment House

FRANKLIN - OHIO DENVER - COLORADO